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IRAN

Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

26 Apr

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[Unattributed report: "Report on Open Session of the Majles From Legal and Parliamentary Section]

[Excerpts] At yesterday's open Majles session, following pre-agenda speeches by several deputies, Mr. Karrubi gave a short speech congratulating the Afghan people who gained victory after years of resistance, pain, suffering, and patience. [passage omitted]

Movahedi Kermani, Deputy from Tehran: We Must Not Make People Bitter With Our Words So They Will Separate From Us, Which Would Isolate Us

Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi Kermani, deputy from Tehran, spoke as the first pre-agenda speaker. [passage omitted]

Kermani congratulated the Muslim people, the Afghanistan mujahedin, and Muslims throughout the world on their victory. He also congratulated the leader of the Islamic revolution about the people's participation in the fourth round of elections for the Majles and wished them all continued success and glory.

The deputy from Tehran added: Our great people know well that the real secret of our holy and Islamic regime lies in the rule of the jurisconsult. Only this in our Islamic regime can rally everyone together in a unified whole. All our glory and greatness is due to the principle of the rule of the jurisconsult. In religious text this has been mentioned as the greatest tool for religious belief and the most important basis of piety. Based on this principle, the rule of Islam can be realized; and with the wisdom of God, all God's laws will be implemented.

Our religious people believe in this and they heeded the words of the departed imam and the speeches of the leader of the Islamic revolution regarding the elections. They recognized the standards, and they went to the polling stations with an excitement that is hard to describe. With their widespread presence, they dealt the enemy a huge blow. They listened carefully to the positions, and they heard the speeches made in the Majles by the deputies. Once the political lines and the lines of thought became clear in the newspapers and so forth, they dropped their votes in the ballot boxes and chose their deputies, based on Islamic and revolutionary principles. In the final analysis the people's large turnout at the elections pleased friends and saddened enemies.

He continued: We must not make the people bitter with our words. We must not gradually separate our ranks from those of the people, which would isolate us. It is quite clear that our positions now also make the outcome of the run-off elections clearer. If this is not carefully thought out, we will again lose. To think that the people are in a mist of confusion, mistrust, pessimism and indifference and to think that they have confused right with wrong is a great insult to this great, intelligent and brave people that will never be forgotten.

Kermani added: There are gentlemen who quote verses of the Koran and say they are innocent. I think it is the Council of Guardians who should complain against injustice and should quote verses of the Koran. It should use such verses to swear to its own innocence and to defend the Council. It has become obvious to all that some of the deputies' speeches have been exploited by foreign radio stations and what they said in the Majles has been picked up and used by enemy radio stations, which used these statements to further their hostile analysis. It would be better to pay attention to this danger and if it were used as an example so that nobody will help the enemy in the future.

The religious people overcame the enemy by appearing in mosques. By participating in Friday prayers, they reached such a lofty political understanding that they were able to continue their revolution using these two holy bases. Why are some people now harsh on the subject of mosques and Friday prayer ceremonies? Why do they not like these holy places now?

Kermani concluded: At the end of the second round, when it became clear that I had not gained enough votes, I said this: "Gentlemen, the Majles is a role model for all organs in the country and must teach the people. It must show a strong position when confronting the enemy. To this end it must put all its efforts toward destroying the roots of heresy, aggression, and dissent. It must show the world its fraternal and friendly face so that with a two-tier policy of "strength against the enemy" and "kindness to the friend" it can achieve the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution.

I am not worthy enough to serve in the Majles, but I am always a servant of the revolution, wherever I may be. In conclusion, I wish all those who serve the Islamic Republic—especially the deputies in the third round—all the best."

That was my message that day, and it is hoped that respected deputies who have not gained enough votes or will not have enough votes after the run-off elections, will also adopt the same attitude.

'Ali Rahm Yusef-pur, Deputy From Ardel and Farsan: 85 Percent of Those Whose Credentials Were Rejected Were Refused by the Executive Bodies, Not By Council of Guardians

Yusef-pur, deputy from Ardel and Farsan, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He congratulated the leader of the revolution and the Iranian people about the participation of 19 million voters in the first round of elections to the Fourth Majles. He said: In the past few days some of the deputies have unfortunately tainted the good atmosphere that existed after the elections with their speeches. By making uncalled-for remarks, they have now forced me to prepare a reply to some of them.

I apologize to the great people of Iran but, God willing, once I have finished my statement you will agree that I am right.

The basic outline of these deputies' speeches could be defined as follows:

1. In the recent elections to the Majles, they have got rid of some of the friends of the imam—may his presence to paradise be expedited.
2. By doing this the country is moving closer to the West.
3. Some of these people who have served Islam and the revolution, who have been rejected, are innocent.

In reply to all such statements, I say that the Iranian people recognize the leadership of Ayatollah Khamane'i as a continuation of the Imam's line—may his passage to paradise be expedited. The people have proven this throughout the past few days in various ways. Under present conditions we recognize the followers of the imam's line to be those who completely obey the jurisconsult and actively support the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has the leader's support. Those who in their speeches claim to be the only ones following the imam's line have in the past few years unfortunately adopted unpleasant methods and made some grave mistakes, which we hope they will rectify in the future.

The main methods used were as follows:

1. Making a lot of noise and creating rumors.

2. Painting an innocent picture of themselves.

3. Destroying the other party in various ways, including the use of newspapers, magazines, and pre-agenda speeches.

4. Brandishing empty slogans to gain esteem without recognizing the realities that exist in the country. An example of this is to suggest support for Saddam Husayn in the war with the United States, despite the fact that the leader named both countries as aggressors.

5. Brandishing slogans in favor of the poor and then acting in a contradictory manner. This includes most of the people living in North Tehran, driving Mercedes-Benz cars, even after stern words from the revolution's leader about the need to relinquish such cars and includes travel to countries such as Japan and Italy with their families at the invitation of foreign companies.

6. Hurting the feelings of the great leader, which he mentioned during his speech on Jerusalem Day.

7. Weakening Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, which in some cases was done very unfairly. The president recalled some of these cases during his Friday sermons.

8. Calling into question the elections to the Assembly of Experts as well as the most recent elections, despite repeated comments by the great leader of the revolution and the respected president. At this time I will speak about some of the pain and suffering these gentlemen have caused to the real friends of the revolution after the death of the late Imam.

He continued:

I myself am a small servant of the revolution. God has given me the honor since the age of 19 to know my imam. Since then I have served the revolution, God willing. To this end, a great fortune was bestowed on my family when we gave two of my brothers to the revolution. As a member of a family that has given martyrs, I tell the respected leader of the revolution and the great people of Iran that I suffered most in the Third Majles from the wrath of some of these gentlemen. There have been many nights when I have not slept because of worry. I saw how some people used their holy clerical garb and I saw what evil goals they wanted to achieve using the most beautiful slogans. These are the same people who used the revolution, Islam, and the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—as tools to get what they wanted.

In this Majles it took us two days to try to read a letter by the deputies in support of the leader, which had the necessary majority, but we were not successful. The leadership of the Majles did not allow it. At the time of the elections for the Assembly of Experts, one day before the elections, they brought about a plan of utmost urgency that was designed to close the Majles, despite all the advice from the great leader of the revolution. After the elections were over, these spokesmen for Israeli radio hurt the leader's feelings, and the remainder stayed silent or announced their support for the mentioned spokesmen and threw salt on our wounded hearts.

From the day our brother, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, became president, they started a campaign of noncooperation and caused problems. The policies approved during the life of the imam, which were ratified by the Majles as a Five-Year Plan, were regarded as pro-Western and antipeople by these gentlemen. They blamed the government and the president personally for high prices and shortages.

For example, the Majles passed a law that specified that the electricity and communications companies must be self-sufficient, meaning no help must be given to them from oil revenue.

When prices rose, some of the gentlemen deputies blamed the government for the increased prices. They were told several times that either they were asleep when the laws were passed or when it came to implementing the laws after they were ratified, they meant to do harm and caused obstructions.

The deputy from Farsan and Ardel then talked about rejection of credentials and said: It is worth noting that 85 percent of those who were rejected had their credentials refused by the executive bodies, which had nothing to do with the supervisory commission or the Council of

Guardians. As you know, eight members of each executive body are chosen from among trusted locals, invited by the district governors, and the three others are the district governor, a representative of the prosecutor, and the head of the town's land and documents' registry office. The gentlemen know very well that although we do not claim that the actions of the Interior Ministry are against us, we also do not claim that these actions favor our faction. The great leader of the revolution also announced his confidence in the Interior Ministry, which leaves 15 percent who were rejected by the supervisory bodies and ultimately the Council of Guardians. These can be divided into five groups.

1. Those who were politically corrupt. These were the people who each day in the Majles stirred things up and caused obstructions, and weakened the government through lies and accusations.

2. Those who were financially corrupt. There are many examples of this. There was one person, for example, whose credentials were rejected. A prominent person objected to this rejection. When his file was taken to that prominent person for review he saw that this person had obtained 18 approvals for deals for his close family. I will not mention the rest of the files.

3. Those who were normally corrupt. This particular person came the other day and said: I do not know why they have rejected my credentials. Yet he should pay attention to these documents. He is a deputy for a town near Tehran. I have now kept these documents for four years, and if he had not pretended to be innocent, as God is my witness, I would not have talked about it. This person should not have been in the Majles for four years, and the blame rests with the people who brought him into the Majles. (This person is Mr. Rohati, deputy from Shahriyar.)

There is another gentleman who says he has not done anything wrong at all, and that he has no money. I must tell him: You were prosecuted by the great leader and your files are still open for investigation. (This person is Mr. Hadi Ghaffari.)

Brothers and sisters, the people whose credentials were rejected have case files which, if revealed, would put them to such shame that they would no longer be able to live in Iran, for fear of the Hezbollah ummah).

4. There are a few people whose credentials were rejected by the executive bodies who did not appeal before the deadline or because of a backlog and were not properly investigated by the Council of Guardians. It is possible that their rights were violated, which must be fully investigatedd so that they can be cleared. These do not include famous names who pretend to be innocent. I sincerely ask the respected Council of Guardians, the Ministry of Intelligence, and the special clerical tribunal to reveal some of these gentlemens' files so that these bodies' goodwill is not abused.

The speaker continued:

It seems these gentlemen are angrier with the people for not voting for them than they are with the Council of Guardians.

I would also like to point out some things mentioned in the comments made by Mr. Montakhab'niya [Majles Shiraz deputy and clerical affairs official for Tehranian Society of Combative Clergy]. He said that the Majles put aside the imam and the imam's friends. I already gave enough details about the people whose credentials were rejected. But it is also worth noting that in the previous three Majles elections, according to figures available now, two-thirds of the current deputies would not have obtained enough votes. The Majles now has new faces. Now the question is this: Were the first two sessions of the Majles the imam's Majles or not? The imam praised those two first sessions of the Majles, which means that they were obviously good. Yet the majority of the deputies left from the first two sessions of the Majles have not obtained enough votes now. Is it that the deputies who served in later sessions have put aside the imam's friends, or is it that the people in most constituencies recognized that their current deputy cannot fulfill many of their demands, so they have not voted for him and he has had to seek a position elsewhere?

Are you saying that in each constituency the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—has only one friend who just happens to be from your faction? If others from the ranks of soldiers, families of martyrs, and other sacrificers obtain votes, do we have to say that they have put aside the imam's friends?

Mr. Montakhab'niya, according to your own statement, so far half of your friends have obtained enough votes. Have any of those who have been elected complained once about the elections so far? Or is it that those whose credentials were rejected or who have failed to obtain enough votes are the only names complaining? You claim to be the only one consistent with the imam, and you have asked the great leader to form a fair tribunal.

Do you know of a court in Iran where there are six fair clerics, chosen by the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and six lawyers chosen by the Majles?

Most of our courts face a shortage of manpower, yet their judges have adequate qualifications to become religious leaders. But the problem is that you only want a court that will vote in your favor, even though you may not be in the right.

Mr. Montakhab'niya, you do claim that history has proven that you are in line with the imam, please answer the following questions. Without a doubt the leadership of the Majles will grant you the necessary time. Last Wednesday they did not read out a list of your absences on the radio, so it would be quite easy to give you time.

1. You claim to be a practical supporter of the leader. What, then, is your position regarding those who are

spokesman for Israel's radio in the Majles? How is it that you did not sign a statement of support for the leader?

Who do you think are the troublemakers in the Majles? What has been your position regarding these people? What has been your position regarding those who weaken the government? What reaction have you shown to those who put obstacles in the government's way?

2. When the cabinet was being chosen, when one of the ministers was being put aside, you announced in the Defense Committee that the American espionage organization has put pressure on the president through the Ministry of Intelligence to change the interior minister. Does this lie show support for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government? I am prepared to appear in any court to prove that he actually said this.

He concluded his remarks by thanking the people of Ardel and Farsan for taking part in the elections to the Fourth Majles and the executive officials there for organizing the elections.

Farajollah Afrazideh, Deputy From Nowshahr and Chalus

Farajollah Afrazideh, deputy from Chalus and Nowshahr, was the third pre-agenda speaker. In his short comments, he said: I thank all the sacrificing, martyr-rearing ummah throughout the country who heeded the request of our great leader and participated in the elections to the Fourth Majles with joy and in great numbers. They disappointed the enemies of Islam and the revolution. I would also like to thank the revolutionary and aware people of Nowshahr, Chalus, Marzanabad, Kalardasht, and Alamdeh and their surrounding villages for taking part in the elections. This includes all those who voted for me as well as those who voted for the other candidates. More than 80 percent of those elelgible obeyed the great leader and took part in the elections. They showed that they are faithful to the revolution and to Islam. I would especially like to thank the brothers who worked in my headquarters, without expecting anything in return. I thank those brothers and sisters who showed no vacillation and stood firm in the face of all the rumors, insults, accusations, and poisonous propaganda designed to create fear. With their majority vote, they chose me for the third time, giving me the responsibility to carry out my duties in the legislative body once again.

He thanked those in charge of organising the elections and added: I ask the brothers and dear colleagues who for any reason have not managed to gain a seat in the Majles not to speak in the Majles in such a way as to please the counterrevolution and the enemies of the country and Islam. They must defend the revolution with all their might, as honest and clean servants. They must serve in other areas, and through their good work they will bring hope to the people. Thus the spirit of the imam and the spirit of the martyrs will be pleased. I ask the executive bodies, the supervisory commissions throughout the country, and the Council of Guardians—just as the brothers said in their pre-agenda speeches—that in the case of Majles candidates whose credentials were rejected, these bodies reveal in the media the reasons why their credentials were rejected.

Karim Malekasa, Deputy From Malavi—Complaint From Deputy Malavi for Having Credentials Rejected by Relevant Bodies

The fourth pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Karim Malekasa, who said in his speech: There is a group that thinks the jurisconsult belongs only to them. Other people—especially those who consider their line of thinking to be close to that of the late imam, those who were beaten in the prisons of the former regime, the families of martyrs, the soldiers of the fields of sacrifice, and others who do not think like them—are against the rule of the jurisconsult. In terms of policies, there are differences in such areas as economics, loans, and the ways of making people feel valuable. It is in no way acceptable to them that these people also believe in the jurisconsult with all their heart and soul. If there is ever an opportunity to prove in the battlefield and on the testing ground, that will be the time when the real supporters of the jurisconsult will be identified. I firmly believe that not only does this issue not strengthen the rule of the jurisconsult but that it does not prove people's love for the jurisconsult either. To separate a huge group of people, who are the real supporters of the revolution, especially by false accusations, does not solve any problems but is also a futile act that empties the ranks of the revolutionaries. In terms of reaction throughout the world, it brings no benefits to the revolution, and is also damaging.

I ask the great leader; the sources of emulation; the teachers at the theological centers; the dear memory of the imam; the president; and all the other pillars of the revolution to think of a solution to this issue. They must not allow the flowers of revolution and the buds of the memories of the war to shrivel. They must save the revolution from this serious danger. These days harbor false rumors, outright lies, and unfair labels are being applied to the most faithful of the imam's friends—foremost among whom is Ayatollah Karrubi, who is one of the crusaders at the helm of the revolution. There are so many such allegations that they trouble freedom-loving people. Such actions are nothing but a plot hatched by the United States to remove the thinking forces of the revolution and those who are close to the line of the imam.

I beg everyone to read the remarks by the imam published in today's newspapers.

Regarding his own credentials' being rejected, he said: Regarding my own credentials' being rejected, I received a phone call from the governor of the center of my constituency. The allegations are as follows: being against the rule of the jurisconsult; meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri; neglecting fairness in the Majles; and meeting with freed prisoners who were charged with

common crimes. I issued a brief reply to these allegations in the SALAM newspaper in its 22 April 1992 issue.

First, in accordance with items 50 and 56 of the law governing elections, there must be documents that must be approved by the intelligence office, the prosecutor general, the international police, and so forth. According to the governor of Malavi, no documents at all have been filed against me by these bodies. The executive bodies have gathered some letters written by my opponents, photocopies of which have been put in my file. They rejected my credentials on the basis of a vote of six against and five in favor. Because they lacked legal grounds, they announced that they were acting in accordance with their own knowledge and swore an oath that the allegations against me are correct.

What court—Islamic, non-Islamic, or secular—would accept such fabricated allegations as crimes? On this basis they have removed from public service someone who has received the people's vote twice, whose record in the revolution is quite clear, and who has served in various positions in the 13 years since the revolution. I have presented two sets of defenses, dated 25 March 1992 and 29 March 1992, with legal documents, to the supervisory committee of the province and to the respected Council of Guardians. These defenses have been placed at the disposal of the Hezbollah people of Malavi, and in them I have replied to all the points raised. Regarding the untrue allegation of being against the rule of the jurisconsult—which has been applied to most of those people who have been refused, deputies or other candidates—I have given adequate replies.

Next he said he hoped that the great leader of the revolution will resolve this obscure problem that exists in society. He asked that society be saved from this seed of dissent, which is being exploited by power-hungry people. He added: Regarding the meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri, why is it that people of both factions who met with him and whose credentials were accepted have been left alone? Why is it that only people who were not at that meeting, like myself, have been refused because of this? Those who brought up this issue would have been better off talking to recognized people in this group. If the meeting was a crime, then it would have been committed by the people at the meeting, not by me. At that time I was in Khuzestan province and was not present at that meeting or any other meeting with that gentleman.

Mr. Malekasa added: Regarding the rest of the allegations, they are so groundless that perhaps it is not worth issuing a reply. Can Majles deputies choose whom they meet with? Besides, if someone has committed a crime, if he meets with his deputy, does that mean that the deputy then becomes a partner to that crime?

What legal body would approve of such a thing? Concerning the Majles proceedings, I was only making a statement in favor of the oppressed, the poor, and the workers, especially at budget time. Now they have counted this as a crime.

He concluded by saying that the points raised by Mr. Yusefpur were unfair and unproven. He said: I am a brother of a martyr, and I served on the front lines of right against wrong for years during this revolution. Before the revolution I went to prison. Now I am being called into question. I have fought. Ten years before the revolution, I was fighting. During the past 13 years since the revolution, I have not sat still for a moment. I have spent most nights awake, working for the revolution. We feel for the revolution and we want to serve the revolution, but they will not let us.

On the Majles Sidelines

The comments made by Mr. 'Ali Rahm Yusefpur, deputy from Farsan and Ardel during yesterday's session of the Majles, met with a great deal of opposition and noise from the deputies, which caused a good deal of tension and disrupted the peace in the Majles.

According to the report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, when Mr. Yusefpur was making his pre-agenda speech, some of the deputies—including Messrs. Saleh-abadi, Malekasa, Ahmadi, Hadi Ghaffari, Musavi, and Mrs. Raja'i—started to make a lot of noise, countering the statements being made. The requests by Mr. Karrubi for calm were in vain.

These deputies claimed that Mr. Yusefpur had insulted them in his speech.

When the speaker allowed Mr. Ghaffari and Mahmud Robati to speak, Mr. Khalkhali, deputy from Qom, shouted loudly and demanded to be given a chance to speak as well.

This report indicates that the Majles speaker asked Mr. Khalkhali several times to keep quiet, pointing out that he had not bee insulted in the speech in question. But Mr. Khalkhali took his position behind the microphone, amid jokes as well as serious comments from several deputies, including Messrs. Saleh-abadi, Farzad, and Ha'eri-zadeh.

This was at 1030 hours. More than 90 minutes had elapsed since the start of the proceedings and the Majles had still not gone into session. Visitors watched deputies' behavior in amazement. Some of them shook their heads in dismay at the situation.

At this time our correspondent found out that during yesterday's Majles proceedings several people in Tehran called the Majles public relations office, expressing concern at the goings on in the main hall of the Majles. They asked that the deputies look into social and economic issues facing the country instead.

One of the notices on the main board in the Majles said that the Majles will be closed from the end of yesterday's session until the end of the run-off elections.

According to this notice, the first session of the Majles after the recess will be on Sunday 10 May 1992.

Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Babakhas, deputy from Paveh and Orumanat, distributed a letter to journalists announcing that he is no longer running as a candidate for the run-off elections of the Fourth Majles for the constituency of Pavel, Javanrud, and Orumanat.

Reply by Hadi Ghaffari to Comments by 'Ali Yusefpur

Hadi Ghaffari, deputy from Tehran, gave a speech in reply to comments made by 'Ali Yusefpur, in accordance with article 77 of the Majles internal regulations. He said: I was reluctant to reply. But today I am happy that, after 12 years of rumors and tension, it has become clear that Hadi Ghaffari has committed two crimes: 1. He has gone to Japan twice. 2. At the special clerical tribunal he was sentenced to 15 lashes.

Regarding the trips to Japan, he said: People of Iran, you should know that one trip was at the invitation of Mr. Engineer Seyyed Mohammad Qarazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, in my capacity as the head of the Majles commission about energy. This was with five other people from the plan and budget commission and the head of the satellite system. I went not of my own accord but on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the Presidency of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The second trip was made at the invitation of the leader of the Muslims in the town of (Kubeh) in Japan. I made several speeches, and I said prayers. The leader of Japan's Muslims invited me as one of the leaders of Hezbollah, even though I only regard myself as a theological student. Those were my two trips to Japan.

He talked about his prosecution by the special clerical tribunal and said: When I was at the hajj, the al-Hadi Islamic organization had a newsletter that quoted the great leader of the revolution as saying: "The bazaar must be at the service of Islam and Muslims," which was a headline from KEYHAN. The newsletter, on the other hand, without saying who the quote was from, wrote: "Today unfortunately Islam and the Muslims are at the mercy of the bazaar." At the time that this newsletter was printed I was working for the expedition of the leader. I hope Mr. Reyshahri is listening to my speech now. He was the man responsible for the expedition. I was a member of the same expedition supervising the clergy that went with the pilgrimage caravans. When I saw this newsletter, there was man called Mas'ud Moradi, who was my deputy at the al-Hadi organization. I immediately sacked him, which was the entire issue for which the special clerical tribunal was held in the first place. If that conviction was right, then it was right. After that, I spoke at the school of medicine. I happened to defend the special clerical tribunal and recognized it as legitimate, which is how I feel today. I accept it as a religious organization, and I have no complaints. I only object to the verdict that was issued. If the leader has forgiven, then who are you to come here and turn this conviction into a stick with which to beat me, when the leader has already forgiven. I hereby apologize to the Council of Guardians. I should not have gone to them to seek the reasons why my credentials were refused. I should have pursued a certain political faction that has taken up the cudgels and wants to silence everyone who calls for freedom. I should have pursued that pressure group, not the respected Council of Guardians. All the dear people throughout the country should hear this: If they hear news of Hadi Ghaffari getting a house, a car that the Majles gave him, money in rials or dollars—if they find something— damn them if they do not come forward to reveal all!

I was a bad person and I was rejected. Mrs. Raja'i, let me defend you. 1. For three terms you did not accept your salary from the Majles. 2. You lived on the small sum of money you receive as the widow of martyr Raja'i [former prime minister killed in an explosion in 1981]. You did not take a car from the Majles throughout the three terms. Everyone saw how simply you lived. You are still living in your old house, which was the home of teacher martyr Raja'i. You have not used any of the facilities available to you.

This modern-day Zeinab's only crime is that she railed against all those who lived in an extravagant manner. Defending independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic, she railed against all the comfort-loving people at the airport.

I went to Japan. Did Mrs. Raja'i also go to Japan? If I had permission, and if I believed that it was the correct thing to do, I would give a list of the trips made by the wife of one of this country's top officials to Ottawa, Germany, Japan, Beijing, and so forth. If you give me permission, I will reveal who went to the Olympic games with their grandchildren.

In conclusion, he added: I do not have a penny to my name. If my wife is listening, I apologize to her and to my children. I regret nothing of my past. In this month of April I have nothing for them in the way of savings, salary, and so forth. I only have a house that my father left me, which I have not converted to cash. I have 30,000 books left to me by my father. I will not take one step back from my position of being antiaggression, anti-American and anti-Israel. I will not give up my struggle against the filthy capitalists and the wealthy leeches. I will not compromise with American Islam, the Islam of compromisers, those who do not know the meaning of pain, the meaning of torture, lashes, being a refugee, war, and the meaning of being on a war front without water. I will support and defend the holy Islamic regime and the rule of the jurisconsult. Mr. Yusefpur and hundreds like him will not have the power to force me into a defensive position against the jurisconsult. God forbid. I will work to serve the regime of the Islamic Republic wherever I am. God willing, the day will come and it will be obvious who has built palaces in North Tehran; who has had arguments with his jihad volunteers; where they bought cars; when they sold those cars; and to whom they sold those cars.

Reply From Ahmad Robati to 'Ali Yusefpur

Then Ahmad Robati, deputy from Shahriyar, gave a reply to the comments made by the deputy from Ardel. He said: This gentleman showed two pictures here, one from 1974 and one from 1975. There is a picture that I gave to Mr. Karrubi that some of the dear people have also seen. I ask that this be enlarged and published. I think it is the biggest crime for these gentlemen to bring this subject up now as proof and a document. In order to clarify the issue, I beg of Mr. Karrubi to arrange for some of the gentlemen, including one from the opposing faction, to investigate the issue. Then they should report their findings to this great Majles and to the honorable people of Iran. I will give details of the first photo. In 1972 or 1973 there was a brother by the name of Hoseyn Kazempur, who was a fighter. He was arrested by SAVAK [former regime's secret police] and thrown in jail. In 1974 he was released. In that same year of 1974 I took the university entrance exams. I was accepted for an economics course at Beheshti University, and he was accepted for physics at the University of Esfahan.

Some days after he arrived in Esfahan, he invited me out, and together with a couple of other student friends we went to a restaurant for dinner. In the restaurant we took some photographs as a souvenir of the evening. One of these photographs is now in the hands of Mr. Karrubi, and I ask all the dear deputies to look at this photo. They will see that there is honestly nothing in there. Now these gentlemen are using the photo as an excuse. They put things from their own minds in the photo to destroy people's dignity. This photograph is now here, and there is another taken in that gentleman's home.

He continued: It was about 1977 or 1978 that this person gradually became involved with the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas], and it was in 1979 or 1980 that he was arrested and executed. After his execution there were some bitter feelings between me and his family. They are relatives of some sort. After this issue they thought that in fact I had turned him in, which is why there was a desire to seek revenge. Then the elections came, and the photograph emerged from their corner. There are also other issues regarding this matter, but I do not wish to discuss their family. The other point is a photo of me taken wearing Lee jeans, which was taken in 1975. You know what society's conditions were in those days. Nothing is clear in the photo, but I will tell you the story behind it to make things clear. At the university, I became engaged. My friends, some of whom are now deputy ministers and ambassadors, know about this. My parents and I, together with my older brother—who had a Hilman car—went to visit this family to ask for their daughter's hand in marriage. She was my concubine—but a legal one, and her family was aware of this. A photo was taken showing me in Lee jeans. If that is a crime and against religious law, then so be it.

He added: Just so I would not complain, they cut the lady—who was my fiance—out of the picture. The photo shows me with part of her hair, and there is nothing else that is clear. If the picture had remained in one piece, I could have complained, saying that she was my fiance, and they had no business taking her photo. Since I would have had grounds for complaint, they cut her out of the photo. I once again seriously ask Mr. Karrubi to do something so that people's dignity is not thus destroyed. I want him to investigate the issue and to read out the results to the Majles and also for our dear people. This is all there is to it. Now they have picked these two things up and turned them into whatever they want, saying it is moral corruption. The dear people should pay attention to the document that they have placed in my file, to see how it has been distorted. They said that my file contains pictures from before the revolution, showing me in a night club with Mr. 'Abbasi's girlfriend. Look how they distorted the issue. Then they submitted this material as a document. Very well, if that is the case, then bring it here for all to see. Now, concerning the document that Mr. Yusefpur has shown here—which some people have also signed—I will get to the root of that problem as well and say who these people are in Shahriyar. There is in Shahriyar a group of people—whom I will not name—who ruled that area for years. During the first round of the elections, they were candidates, but they did not obtain enough votes. In the second round they announced their candidacy and did not get enough votes. In the third round they brought someone from Tehran and they promised to get him into the Majles. Even that servant of God was not prepared to go there, but on the basis of their promises he came but again did not get enough votes. It seems they now have a complex about the issue, and they are only relying on these two photographs.

Comments by Sadeq Khalkhali

The Majles session continued with a speech from Sadeq Khalkhali, who claimed he was insulted in Mr. Yusefpur's speech. He said: My crime is not fabricated and is real. I quote Mr. Emami-Kashani, who told me: You killed many people in the revolution courts, which is why you do not have the right qualifications to be in the Majles. I said if this is your reasoning, then Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family—would also not have had enough credentials, because he also did such things to many people. The crime is clear: Killing the likes of Hoveyda [the shah's former prime minister], Nasiri [former head of the SAVAK secret police], Khosrowdad [former head of the elite commando unit at time of the Shah], generals, brigadier generals, and so forth. I executed three prominent members of SAVAK and the CIA, Pakravan, Moqaddam, Nasiri, and Teymur Bakhtiyar. I am not a person to take things lying down. I have thus far been proud of my past actions. My leaving the Majles does not mean my personal or political death. It is the death of someone who has crusaded and has sided with Islam. It deals with someone who has defended Islam's truth and the oppressed. Those belongings and properties that were confiscated for the Foundation of the Oppressed, were confiscated on my orders.

He addressed Ayatollah Khaz'ali, one of the clerical members of the Council of Guardians, and said: Mr.

Khaz'ali, I have signed for 12,000 items. If my credentials are rejected, the entire Foundation of the Oppressed has to be rejected. The Foundation came into being with my signature. You do not know these things. After those incidents, I went to see the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited. As God is my witness, he told me privately that he liked me. I told him he was very kind, and I asked him to put something in writing. He wrote: I will not forget your actions favoring the movement and the revolution. Your role in the revolution is unforgettable. Then he gave me responsibility for running the theological center at Abdel-azim [in the town of Rey near Tehran]. So what are you saying now?

He added: You are part of the plot that the great leader talked about when he said: You expected this issue to be revealed. But it was you who opened up the issue. I did not want to talk about it. We would very much like it to become clear that the Second Majles was one of troublemakers, which is something that has to be made clear. God bless your father for talking about these things. Some of the gentlemen say things that are not true. Victory to the Muslims and the oppressed, the families of the martyrs, the blood of the martyrs, and the imam of the ummah! If God is willing, this path will continue.

Resignation of Deputy From Kazerun

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was discussion of the resignation from the Majles of Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nejadiyan-fard, deputy from Kazerun.

Baqeri-Nejadiyan-fard started his speech by reading the text of his letter of resignation:

Respected Speaker of the Majles, Ayatolah Kkarrubi—I have spent many years in a never-ending struggle in God's path, obeying the spirit of the Lord without question. My crime is an endless love for God's ideals and carrying out my duty in the Majles, within the framework of the law and the guidelines set out by the imam of strugglers, innocent religious people, deprived freedom-loving peoples and in the service of the Hezbollah ummah. They have an unbreakable bond with those who sacrifice in the path of God and those who adore God.

It was predicted with certainty that they would enter the center of all laws and powers. Therefore, without the slightest logical, legal, religious, or moral reason, they called into question the credentials of honest people who are the inheritors of the martyrs and prophets. It is a matter of great regret that the officials of the regime were not able to or did not want to do anything substantial to remove unfairness. They remained silent while the rights of the people and their chosen representatives were destroyed. Even worse than that is the fact that values have been crushed, and—in this—they are accomplices. So, in order to execute my political and religious duty, I present a document for the hereafter and present my resignation to the Majles.

It is hoped that the great God gives His blessing to the Islamic movement of the oppressed, the tortured throughout history, and the pure Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him—so that it will grow and deepen throughout the globe.

He then gave details about his resignation and said: It seems that my credentials were rejected by 19 members of the executive body and the supervisory committee in the province and in the town. It appears that some of them bravely stood firm in the face of pressures, threats, and decisions. It finally was approved by the Council of Guardians, because of a shortage of time and before it could have been properly examined. At the moment I do not have the time to give details about the past elections in the town and the internal and external motivations that exist in the town and province and other places, legally or illegally. I will not go into the nature of the people involved. I will leave it up to God and the people who did not look into the complaints lodged by myself and the people. I will receive my answer from God in the hereafter.

He added: I do not know who made the decision to reject my credentials. But a long time ago, the head of the supervisory committee announced this in private meetings. At that time I wrote to the great leader and I informed him. It seems that the Council of Guardians approved the province's decision. As far as I know, they do not have the slightest legal, religious, logical, or moral reason for rejecting my credentials, and they have not announced anything either.

I have the right to know who rejected my credentials and why. They have to give clear answers so that I can tell my family, relatives, friends, the people in the province, in my constituency, and anyone else who may ask. I must be able to say why they rejected my credentials. When I look at my own past, before the revolution and since then—as well as the period during which I was a Majles deputy—I find no reason why my credentials should have been refused.

He then talked about his past activity before and after the Islamic revolution, and in another section of his speech, he said: I am now worried that the lack of freedom of expression will grow deeper and the trend to carry out fundamental work will stop. The brave jihad volunteers will be slapped in the face by the landowners—just as Abuzar the farmer was in history. These jihad men's ancestors were killed by whips and lashes wielded by the rich feudal landowners, some of whom had a hand in the coup plot at Nowjeh [air force base]. Or else they will leave their families' lands and migrate to the edges of cities. The farmers and livestock raisers will lose their livelihood more than ever before. Honest people, with insight into the spirit of God and by taking note of the imam's last will and testament, have a mission as ministers—or in higher or even lower positions—to serve the oppressed. Otherwise, it is not a blessing for them, nor is it a title. It is a heavy and dangerous duty where, if there is the slightest vacillation

based on whim, it will bring about everlasting disgrace in this life and the fires of hell in the other world.

He added: The 40 people whose credentials were rejected for the Fourth Majles have an unbreakable bond with the regime, the movement, and the imam's line. They would like to serve in any key capacity that they are able. We ask the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians to announce the reasons why our credentials have been rejected. That way we would know whether we are able to serve in other positions of responsibility, from the Presidency, to the lofty position of professor or teacher, which is a job for prophets with a duty to guide society toward God. One servant, chosen by the people, who has served for four years, has now had his credentials rejected for the new term. With that legal or religious permit, is he now allowed to serve the remaining 40 days of his duty in the holy place; that is, the Majles, which is the center of all laws and powers? Is his continuing work valid and legal without the approval of the regime's Expediency Discernment Council? It would have been far better for the 40 people I mentioned plus another 72 and dozens of others to enter the Majles at this point and a list of their names be given to the great leader. Then the leader would have said that it would be best if we did not stay. Then, by obeying the jurisconsult, we would have all accepted his order, and the dignity of the regime and of all those who wish to serve the people and Islam would have been safeguarded. In the future they could have then accepted any other position that would have been in the interest of the regime.

He stressed: We are not only here now, we pass laws. Today we consider our continued presence in the Majles to depend on the renewed approval of the respected people's representatives.

Baqer-Nejadiyan-fard said symbols of value such as the widow of martyr Raja'i should not be brought under question. He said: Is this not calling values into question? Who will benefit from calling the regime's values into question?

Is it not true that the plot against dozens and hundreds of people who are useful to the regime, the revolution, and the masses, who have been approved time and time again by the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and the great martyrs, who have held key positions, who are prominent figures in theological centers, society, and the revolution, points to a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched by the internal and external enemies of the revolution? Marginalizing the true forces of the revolution; destroying the Majles that followed the line of the imam and the students following the line of the imam [who captured the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979]; questioning the credentials of dozens of known faces in the Majles—especially the honest and innocent self-made widow of martyr Raja'i, who is a symbol of values; plus dozens of other people by means of insults, accusations, and devilish methods indicate the presence of unclean hands from inside and outside the country. Is it not true that they have coordinated with one another to get rid of the known forces of the revolution who hold certain ideas and views? It seems that they want to marginalize those forces dedicated to the regime, Islam, and the revolution and opposed to aggression and Zionism, and, if they succeed, their aim is to set them against one another.

Asghar-zadeh, Against the Resignation

Following the speech by Baqeri-Nejadiyan-fard, Mohammad Ebrahim Asqar-zadeh, the deputy from Tehran spoke against the resignation and said: The right that he has to be a deputy, no one can take away from him, under the Constitution. It is the Constitution that is our role model, remaining with us from the early days of the revolution. It is holy to us all and forms the basis of our legal work. It mentions something about the rule of the people. In the Constitution there is a whole chapter about the rule of the people, which is something that cannot be split apart. We cannot destroy the people's rights, unless it is done by the people themselves or through the law.

He added: When we say Mr. Nejadiyan-fard should remain, it is because we lived with him. We witnessed his actions, his views, and his thoughts for four years. We know his background and actions. Defending Mr. Nejadiyan-fard and his political views does not only go back to him. I think there are two major points in this issue:

1. There is his legal personality as a deputy who belongs to the faction that holds the majority in the Majles.

2. There is also his real personality which in fact is an accumulation of all the things that have happened to him in his lifetime.

Asqar-zadeh then defended the deputy from Kazerun and added: He feels pain for Islam and religion and has made an effort and sacrifices for the revolution. At times, he has also been emotional and has said some things. But this person that we are talking about now is the result of all the ups and downs of a revolution. After 13 years, he has reached this level. We cannot simply say that we are now putting aside this investment. When I defend his political situation, I am defending the positions of all those people who are like Mr. Baqeri-Nejadiyan.

He then stated: It is fair to say that with all the changes that have occurred in the past four years, the Third Majles has largely been the center of political activity in defending the revolution and the imam's line. When I say defending the revolution, the imam's line or the Constitution, I ask people not to place these against other organizations, revolutionary personalities or the jurisconsult. At one time, the Majles wrote to the imam and said: We have to return to the Constitution; because of the war, some of the Constitution remains deadlocked. The imam wrote back: "I believe we have to go back to the Constitution." Some people came and said that this was a very heavy issue. You wrote something to

the jurisconsult, they said, and he wrote a reply. But you all saw that the imam replied with complete dignity.

He added: To the gentleman who came and said he had worn Lee jeans, I say, brother, I am among the forces you know. At the beginning of the revolution, I was a spokesman for the students following the imam's line. In that same American Nest of Spies, I appeared time and time again wearing an American jacket. But I was not aware of this issue until the imam asked if what I was wearing was made in our homeland. When the imam pointed this out, I knew the mistake that I had made. But that was only advice. How can it be an accusation to reject my political credentials? Of course, that was then and not now.

Regarding the jurisconsult issue, which many accuse Mr. Baqeri-Nejadiyan of handling poorly, I was present at the sessions held among the deputies in the Majles who follow the line of the imam, and I participated in several of their meetings. In fairness, you have the power to put listening equipment in those meetings. You should hear what goes on at those meetings. Do you think the people who participate in those sessions are the types to hatch plots against the regime? When they talk about the Constitution or the line of the imam, what do these things mean? Those statements of support for the leader that were signed—Mr. Nejadiyan-fard was one who signed them. You must not mix issues when someone defends the jurisconsult, revolutionary organizations, or government offices. When someone criticizes some government programs, this should not be turned into a slogan of "causing obstruction for the government," which only lowers our own dignity later. Nowhere else would people be prepared to lose such valuable persons. You talk about spokesmen for Israel. One of your own brothers is sitting here, about whom the imam said exactly the same thing when he said: His tone is worse than that of the Israelis. This person has not been rejected by the Council of Guardians. We have no right to speak about forces in the revolutionary factions in this manner.

Hoseyn Mozafari-nejad, deputy from Tehran, was the next deputy to speak against the resignation of the deputy from Kazerun. He started his speech by talking about this deputy's past, before and after the revolution. He added:

I believe it is necessary to comment about his actions in the face of my own conscience, God, the Prophet, my ancestors, the imam and the martyrs. This is a man who was in jail. When his father, mother, brothers and sisters went to visit him in prison, he gave them hope and encouragement. He read the Koran to them from behind bars. Then one day on the way back from a prison visit, there was a mysterious car accident. His mother and all his relatives were burnt alive. They were burnt alive in a mist of God's spirit in a dignified manner for the love of Islam, the imams, the rule of the jurisconsult, human honesty and freedom. So this brother teacher, the respected deputy for the revolutionary people of Kazerun, has felt human pain. this is a man, who, quoting the imam, has felt hunger. He has felt the pains of the oppressed. He has all the right legal and personal qualities. I see it fitting that even if there is one day left of the Majles, this active, religious and dedicated person should be present. I ask all of you to keep the dignity of freedom, this Majles, the imam and defense of the innocent and to reject this person's resignation.

Then Hoseyn Mozafari-nejad, deputy from Tehran, and Gholam 'Ali Saleh-abadi, deputy from Mashhad, spoke in favor of Baqeri-Nedjadiyan-fard. Saleh-abadi gave a short speech against the Kazerun deputy's resignation and said:

I know what Mr. Baqeri-Nejadiyan is going through now, because I have been under those same circumstances myself. I must say that fortunately, there are people from both political factions in this country who have been to prison during the Shah's regime. I am one of those who went to jail because of my Islamic struggle and defense of the imam. I was condemned in the military tribunals, and then I was released because of the effort made by the great Iranian people. Those who defended the imam and the true clergy during the days of the shah were under attack from several directions. One side was the SAVAK and the other was the Hypocrites who were very much against clerics. Even personalities such as Ayatollahs Taleqani and Montazeri, who were in prison at that time, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani—if someone defended these people, they would be labeled a "reactionary."

He said: They finally rejected the credentials of people like Mr. Baqeri-Nejadiyan-fard. According to the principle of the Constitution, supervision does not include judgement. Judgement should be made regarding political, financial, and moral violations, in the presence of a jury, in the open court of law.

He then said: I think we should retain people like Mr. Baqeri-Nejadiyan-fard. It should not be the case that they should resign under bad circumstances.

After this speech there was a vote. With the exception of six in favor of the resignation, the rest of the deputies did not vote for the resignation of the deputy from Kazerun.

Reply Given by the Governor of Borujen and Lardegan to Pre-Agenda Speech Given by Davud Towhidi

Legal and parliamentary section.

Following the speech given on 14 April 1992 by Davud Towhidi, the deputy for Borujen and Lardegan, a reply was issued by the governor of Borujen and Lardegan. Part of this reply is as follows:

Mr. Towhidi, deputy for the people of Borujen and Lardegan:

Regarding your pre-agenda speech on 14 April 1992, I feel I have to make the following points for the martyr-rearing ummah of the constituency and yourself.

1. At the beginning of your speech, you thanked the people for their widespread participation in the elections for the Fourth Majles. You said this was a big blow to the liars of the East and West, the hypocrites, and the internal counterrevolutionaries. Yet in the rest of your speech, you not only sullied this presence with lies and false figures, but you acted in such a way that it allowed enemies to take advantage of the situation.

2. Regarding the figures you presented in your speech, if we look at them very optimistically, we have to think of such improbable figures as a sign of your ignorance of even the most basic information needed by a deputy from his constituency. This is why it is now necessary for me to give you a census of the population in your constituency of Borujen and Lardegan.

According to a census carried out in 1991, the population of Borujen is 117,664 and the population of Lardegan is about 120,340, making a total of 238,004, not the 180,000 that you mentioned in your speech.

Suppose we accept the fact you were not aware of the population figures in your constituency, that you reduced a population of about 240,000 by 60,000. Is it acceptable that you did not get the figures of the people who voted from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic or from the figures announced by the election headquarters, or even from my announcement in a telephone interview with the provincial Voice and Vision? In addition to all these, the figures were also published in advertisement number 273 dated 11 April 1992 which appeared all over the province. Is this why instead of 115,000 you announced 120,000?

Mr. Towhidi, in another section of your speech you said: "Where did these votes come from? Second, it was possible for every person with a birth registration record to vote more than 17 or 18 times." It is necessary for me to inform you of the following:

First of all, by uttering these words from the open and holy microphones of the Majles, you provided fodder for the Western propaganda machines. This allowed them to discolor the presence of the Hezbollah ummah at the ballot boxes, which was done upon orders of the jurisconsult and which also turned the 18 million presence into a 1 million presence.

The second point is that you yourself were aware that people from the constituency of Borujen and Lardegan were appearing at ballot boxes in other parts of the country. In a letter to the governor's office you asked that this be stopped, but it was announced to your elements that this was not against regulations.

The third point is that in several parts of your speech you talked about chaos and the completely one-sided actions of the executive offices and so forth.

Mr. Towhidi, a law-maker himself should obey the law more than others. In the unlikely event that such things existed, you could have lodged a complaint with the proper authorities, asking them to look into the issue. You should not have announced this from the Majles microphones, causing tension and being so unfair.

Mr. Towhidi, I must tell you that with the grace of God and the day and night efforts of those involved in holding the elections, they were carried out with total honesty and correctness. So much so that up until the date of this letter—which is several days after the deadline for receiving complaints by the executive bodies—there has been no complaint from you, your supporters or your representatives at the ballot boxes. There have also been no report or complaints from other candidates and their supporters, which would corroborate the points mentioned in your speech or any other unpleasant incidents during the elections.

In another section of your speech you said: "Is it right that people who came and said, 'What has happened to our votes? We had 3,000 in one box, but they only read 1,000?' should be answered with machine-gun fire?"

I am sure that when you mentioned such a box, it was the box in your own home village of Mal-e Khalifeh.

Mr. Towhidi, you have also mixed up the figures here. The total of the votes pulled out of that box was 1,270.

The question is now this: How did you get 3,000 votes from a box which in total received 1,400 votes, of which 1,270 were actually thrown into the box?

Another part of the reply says: Mr. Towhidi, not only was your entire speech full of lies, but everything that you said regarding the security forces and their confrontation with the people, the officials in charge of the elections and so forth was nothing but insults and accusations. If you are forgiven by officials in this world, you will have nothing to say to God in the hereafter.

Another section of the reply says:

At this time it is proper for me to comment about another section of your speech. You said: "We say that with this huge population that is ours, and the fact that three-quarters of the votes cast belong to the Lor tribes, keeping in my mind that our people would not vote for others, then what has happened to our votes?"

Mr. Towhidi, the least you could have done is not tell lies in the letter that you sent to the great leader. First of all, the ratio of the people living in the town, as compared with the tribes that exist in the town, is one-to-two.

The second point is that you are the deputy for the entire constituency, not just just for a tribe or a certain town.

Mr. Towhidi, throughout your speech you accused the security forces of the Islamic Republic of actions, which you better than anyone else know are not within the dignity of any organization in the Islamic Republic.

10 May

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[Unattributed report: "Report on the Open Session of the Majles"]

[Excerpts] Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Division—At yesterday's open session of the Majles, after comments by Mr. Karrubi thanking the people for their participation in the elections, which were printed in yesterday's edition, some of the deputies gave pre-agenda speeches.

Mehrzad Sadaqiyani, Deputy From Salmas

The first pre-agenda speaker was Qasem Mehrzad Sadaqiyani, the deputy from Salmas who commented about the elections in his short speech:

With God's help, the elections for the Fourth Majles were held in a calm manner. I think it is necessary to thank all the Iranian people, especially the respected people of the heroic town of Salmas for their extensive participation in the elections. I also thank them for placing their trust in me in the previous round. I would like to tell them that I have safeguarded their trust; that I have in no way abused it; and that I have not deviated in any way. Now some election officials are saying that there was not enough time to look into all the files. It is hoped that in the future things will become clear for the people and my dear constituents. In any case, I will remain a humble servant of the holy Islamic regime and the dear compatriots and citizens, wherever I am.

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Deputy From Tehran: The People in the Former Soviet Republics Did Not Liberate Themselves From Communism, Just To Fall Under the Control of Aggression

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, the deputy from Tehran was the second pre-agenda speaker who thanked the people for their widespread participation in the elections, which he said was a source of pride. He said this participation in the first and second rounds was amazing. He added:

Our wise and aware people participated in the elections in a responsible manner in both rounds, which made us feel proud. I am far too insignificant a person to thank the great people of Iran. But I would still like to express my gratitude to them. I ask God to grant all of them ever-increasing glory. I thank the dignified people of Tehran for their responsible participation in the first and second rounds and also for making a wise and calculated selection so far from the Tehran candidates.

He added:

A look at the vote distribution during the first and second stages of the elections in Tehran and a look at the complete list of deputies and the total votes that they received at each stage of the elections shows that the people of Tehran are determined in their unquestioned support for the positions taken by the Militant Clergy (Rowhaniyat) Association. The widespread activity and propaganda that occurred after the first round has apparently had no effect on the votes of the people of Tehran. The dignified and aware people of Tehran have not stopped supporting the Militant Clergy and handed the responsibility for the next four years to the Militant Clergy Association. I would like to congratulate Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, (the secretary of the Military Clergy,) for the undisputed vote of confidence that the Association received from the people of Tehran. I want to thank each of the sisters and brothers who served without expecting anything in various offices and election centers for the Militant Clergy. On behalf of myself and all those other colleagues I thank these dear people most sincerely for their honest service that is a source of pride for us all.

I would also like to convey my congratulations for the worthy choice of Dr. Hasan Kamran as candidate for the constituency of Isfahan. I congratulate the people of Isfahan, for they have chosen a serious and honest deputy to send to the Majles.

He also thanked all the other candidates from other areas who did not get enough votes. He said he hoped the experiences gained by those deputies who did not get enough votes this time would be put to good use.

In another section of his speech he praised the efforts made by the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in trying to resolve the differences between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. He said he hoped that with cooperation and restraint from the leaders in those countries, peace and calm would return to the people of those two republics, so they could be blessed with friendly ties and mutual respect.

He continued his speech by attacking Turkey, Israel, and the United States for meddling in the affairs of neighboring countries and said:

The new republics north of our borders are trying to remove tension by showing good will and cooperation and are trying to achieve freedom and democracy for their countries. But unfortunately, the aggressive United States, the criminal and occupying Israel, and mercenary Turkey have started to meddle directly in the affairs of our dear neighbors. They tell them how to set up an Islamic state. Perhaps the U.S. Government is only using this false image to divert the people's attention from the tragedy that is occurring within the United States. But U.S. officials also have to learn that meddling in others' affairs is a political crime. Neither the United States nor any other government in the world has the right to order people about when it comes to the political system that they have chosen for themselves. While having full respect for the vote of the new republics, the Islamic Republic will support and respect any type of political system that they might choose. The people of the Republics, after 70 years of being denied the freedom to determine their own fate, should now be allowed to make

a choice for their future. These dignified peoples have a far more deeply rooted history and culture than the United States. They have not gotten rid of communism only to fall into the trap set by world aggression. The United States has taught a lesson to the Muslims of the world as well as other freedom-loving peoples, with its inhuman and cruel support for Israeli occupation. This in itself is a clear warning and an indication of the evil goals of the United States in the Middle East. I suggest to the U.S. leaders that they should not link their internal problems to the chaos in the Middle East. They should also listen to the cries of anger and despair coming from the poor people in the United States. U.S. interference in the Middle East, especially that country's support for Israeli occupation as well as its blatant meddling in the affairs of our neighbors, violate the same human rights as the United States itself has set. These violations have so far cost a huge amount in terms of human and financial loss. These violations are also condemned by Islam's laws, international regulations, as well as human values. I would like to ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take up the issue of human rights and look honestly into widespread violations of human rights, the mass killing of protestors in the United States, and the wrong and inhuman programs set out by the Bush Administration. This should be done in New York at the United Nations and at the United Nations in Geneva, with the help of friendly countries and other nations who speak honestly about human rights. They should use all that is at their disposal as well as international law to force the United States to observe human rights.

Raja'i Khorasani then talked about relations with the United States and said:

I thank the great leader for his clear and steadfast position regarding the United States. I would like to tell the great leader that all the deputies who obey the legal authorities as well as all the members and affiliates of the Militant Clergy who obey the legal authorities completely, support the expert views of the Muslims' leader on the United States. U.S. officials are in no position to put forward preconditions for establishing ties to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is the Islamic Republic that cannot agree to relations with that country as long as sinful U.S. foreign policy against the Muslims of the region, as well as its support for Israel, persist in their present form.

The deputy from Tehran added: With the coordination that will exist in the next Majles, it is hoped that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will continue to strengthen the management in the country and that he will regard corrective measures to the management issue as a top priority. Some problems that have been seen in the country's executive body, which the president himself has complained about, have to be corrected. We hope that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will undertake these corrections quickly and in a firm manner. From now on the Majles will completely and utterly support his programs and reforms.

Raja'i Khorasani concluded: There are some problems that can be seen in some sectors of the Ministry of Interior, especially in Tehran Province. These issues have brought about harsh feelings and disappointment for the people as well as for those who are willing to invest in production work. If God is willing, these uncoordinated moves and problems will soon be resolved. We hope for ever-increasing success, and rebuilding as well as comfort and security for our dear people.

Ali Abdol Karimi, Deputy From Natanz

The third pre-agenda speaker was 'Ali Abdol Karimi, the deputy from Natanz, who used the three minutes of time left by the deputy from Salmas. In a speech he thanked the people of his constituency for putting their trust in him during the third round of the Majles election. [passage omitted thanking those who voted for him; asking for vigilance so the future of the revolution does not fall into the wrong hands]

He added: I respect your votes and wish all success for the respected brother who has been given a mission by you.

Hoseyn Harati, Deputy From Sabzevar: The Epic Participation of the People in the Elections, Despite Economic Pressures and the Poisonous Propaganda of Foreign Media Was Another Shining Chapter in the History of the Islamic Revolution

Hoseyn Harati, deputy from Sabzevar was the last pre-agenda speaker who talked about the second round of elections for the Fourth Majles. He said: There was an epic participation by the people in the ballot during the first round of the elections for the Fourth Majles. Then again there was the valuable participation in the second round. This occurred despite the fact that there are economic pressures on the people as well as the poisonous propaganda that was launched by the foreign media and the counterrevolution. This participation is yet another golden roll of honor in the proud history of the Islamic revolution and another shining star in the sky of the ummah, with their presence on the scenes of the revolution. Even if we give our lives for these people, it will still not be enough.

The rare and striking presence of the God-seeking ummah at the elections for the Fourth Majles once again revealed an old truth. When the issue at stake is the holy ideals and goals of the Islamic revolution, no issue or problem is able to stop the people coming out and showing their presence. Nothing will stop them renewing their allegiance to the basis of the revolution, which is the legal authorities and the holy regime of the Islamic Republic.

At the same time this huge popular presence has increased the responsibility of the regime's officials. They have to use everything they have in terms of their power and their belief to realize the demands of these great and heroic people.

Based on my previous experience, I predict the Fourth Majles to have two positive points. First it will stay away from factional differences and disputes that are futile and ruin political unity. One of the main sources of complaints from the public regarding the Third Majles was this very issue. The second point is that the Fourth Majles will be constructive. There will be the second plan for economic, social and cultural growth in the second half of the first year. The valuable experiences that were gained during the first plan point to a bright future. The economic forecast of the Fourth Majles in terms of economic, cultural, and social rebuilding indicates that with God's help some positive steps will be taken.

Herati continued: The criminal United States started its campaign before the first stage of the elections. It dictated orders to its slaves and evil mercenaries, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas] who have sold themselves and who are without religion. They decided to launch a futile military attack from outside the western borders and, at the same time, to launch a campaign of terror and bombings inside the country to cause fear among the public and prevent them from going to the ballot boxes. But with the strong will of the men of God, the security and intelligence officials, these plots were quashed in their infancy and were never allowed to be realized. They were never allowed to make a move. This ball of fire, which they wanted to explode in our country, backfired. The bloody riots of Los Angeles, the black incidents, and the killing of innocent Americans by the fascist U.S. police and the military forces that were unleashed, once again clearly removed the mask from the evil and criminal face of the U.S. Administration. It made the disaster in American society clear for four reasons.

1. The United States, which pretends to be a defender of human rights has never lost so much face. This proved clearly that innocent peoples under oppression, especially the blacks, whose only unforgivable sin is the color of their skin, do not have even the most basic human rights. They are treated far worse than wild animals.

2. There was bitter confirmation from Bush that poverty and injustice exist in the United States. It proved the truth that in the United States, with all the huge income that exists, a few cartels and trusts suck the blood of innocent people. It showed how their slums are hidden behind the palaces of comfort.

3. The extensive deployment of troops in Los Angeles brought back bitter memories of the troops in Vietnam and their wicked crimes there. It showed very clearly that the wild soldiers of the American armed forces are willing to treat their own people as they would foreigners, and are willing to drag them through the mud and blood.

4. The United States, which is claiming a new world order, showed at the beginning that it is far too weak to implement this policy. A country that is incapable of creating security within its own borders cannot be expected to do the same outside.

Hoseyn Harati continued: One of the economic problems that is really bothering the people, forcing them to complain, is the rise in prices of some items that is not logical and is out of control. This has nothing to do with a policy of economic balance and the only motivation here is profit and the fact that there is not enough government control.

In this regard I would like to protest against the policy of imports—even on a short-term basis—relating to some food and other items, which can be manufactured inside the country. This causes disappointment among the producers and damages future chances of investments. I believe that in a policy aimed at economic balance, although the aim is to increase production in order to combat high prices and inflation, which is something that is also stressed in the first plan, it does not mean that we give up government control of prices or goods all together. Rather the Ministry of commerce should organize its programs in four parts. It should choose the items that are necessary for the people from among the 400 items that exist in the basket of society's expenditures. It should create logical and sensible regulations for the pricing of goods, aimed at encouraging and supporting local producers. It must draft a law to tackle those who sell at high prices. But it must keep in mind two points: One is to prevent some profiteering elements from launching political confrontations with those in charge of implementing the law, and the other is to arrange the law is such a way as to make it impossible to pass on the costs of any fines that may have been imposed to the consumer. The final point is to simply [have] hard-working and religious people to do the task.

Harati concluded: I thank all the great, self-sacrificing brothers and sisters in my constituency of Sabzaevar for their widespread participation in the first and second rounds of the Majles elections. I congratulate those deputies chosen from the town for the Majles. I hereby express my deepest thanks for the trust placed in me during the three Majles sessions. I apologize for any shortcoming on my part in trying to carry out my delicate mission as Majles deputy. I assure each and everyone of the dear people that the flames of their love and affection during the three terms of the Majles will always burn in my heart, giving me hope. I see it as my duty to apologize to the martyr-rearing ummah if any of my speeches in the Majles were in any way insulting. I also apologize to all the radio listeners and the newspapers readers and the appropriate officials.

Majles Ratifications

The report from the Majles committee on associations and internal affairs with regard to a request by Mr. Qazi-zadeh Hashemi, deputy from Fariman, for research into the files dealing with the Majles elections in the constituency of Fariman and Sarakhs, was the first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, at first the reporter for the commission read the report prepared by the commission in charge of associations and internal issues, regarding the need to have this investigation. He said: There are the details of letter number M/635 dated 23 March 1992 by the executive body in charge of the elections in Fariman. This is signed by the district governor of the center of the constituency, addressed to Mr. Qazi-zadeh. The letter says that the body did not consider Mr. Qazi- zadeh to have all the qualifications and legal requirements necessary for becoming a candidate in the elections for the Fourth Majles. This was discussed, but the commission, in accordance with footnote 1 of item 56 of the Majles election law felt that rejection of Majles candidates must be done on the basis of the law and reliable documentation. Since the required legal documentation had not been presented by the executive body, it was necessary to investigate this issue.

He said the minutes of a meeting held on 22 March 1992 by the executive body in charge of elections in Fariman have been sent to the commission at the request of the person who has asked for this investigation. They show that the details mentioned in the minutes have no legal basis. They do not cause Mr. Qazi-zadeh to be prevented from being a candidate for the elections for the Fourth Majles. It must be noted that the district governor and the head of the executive body has written in the minutes that since there is no legal basis for rejection, this person's credentials are accepted. Therefore nothing was done to implement item 54 of the Majles election law.

The reporter for the commission added: The minutes of the meeting of the executive body show that some other people have signed their names saying that there is no legal basis for the allegations made and they too have accepted Mr. Qazi-zadeh's credentials. Therefore the commission deems it necessary to investigate the details of the actions of the executive body in Fariman. While the report of the commission on associations and internal affairs was being read by the commission's reporter, Mr. Movahedi-Savoji, the deputy from Saveh issued a regulatory warning. He read item 149 of the Majles internal regulations with regard to requesting an investigation and the manner in which it should be reviewed in the commission. He said: We have to see what this issue is that is being discussed for the first time in the Majles, especially at this late session at the end of one round, in violation of the regulations. Investigations in the Majles really have two stages. The first stage is the request by the person to launch an investigation, which is sent to the proper commission by the Majles leadership. After it has been discussed in the commission, either it is approved or it is rejected. If it is approved, it will be put to the vote in the Majles without a discussion to see if the Majles approved the investigation or not. If the commission has rejected the request, then according to the regulations the person requesting the investigation has 10 minutes to defend his request.

He added: Unfortunately this request has been dealt with in a political way. The respected commission is at the end of a session and it knows that it does not have the time. Most of the respected members are not in the Fourth Majles so, in fact, they wanted to carry out this long process in one day. All they should do now is just say whether or not the request has been approved. After the Majles has also approved of the request, then the commission can go and investigate to see whether the request was justified or not. Then they should talk about the issue, but in this case, because of political issues, they are talking about the issue now.

This report indicates that after the regulatory warning from Mr. Movahedi-Savoji, Mr. Karrubi, the Majles Speaker, addressed the commission reporter and asked him to sumarize the issue because the commission had approved the request and the Majles had to take a vote.

According to this report the commission reporter did not read the report from the commission and claimed that there was no political motive behind the report. There was then a vote concerning the report which was ratified.

The open session of the Majles yesterday also ratified the plan to amend the law canceling the documents and sale of properties, water, and land which have been endowed, passed in March of 1984 by the Majles.

According to the single item of this plan, from the date that this law is ratified, all endowed properties which have been sold without religious permission, or those which have since become private properties, return to their previous endowment status. All deeds and ownership documents issued for such properties are thereby cancelled, and are considered to be null and void.

Footnote 1—Following the cancellation of the deed to the property, in cases where it is possible to rent the property, if the person occupying the property wants to rent it, and if this is in the interest of the estate, the contract for renting the property will be drawn up to coincide with the eviction notice.

Footnote 2—Those agricultural lands that have been handed over to and divided amongst farmers with land allocations, if it is in the interest of the estate, a rental agreement can be drawn up with the occupiers of those lands, keeping in mind their rights. All the funds given by the government for the aforementioned lands, in accordance with the single item of this bill, will be considered as the government's gift the estate. From the date that the land is handed over to the occupier, a local land expert will determine the proper rental value. This sum will then be taken into account and compared with the sum already paid. Anything over or under this amount will then have to be settled.

Footnote 3—Those who have bought endowed property from real and legal persons, not being aware that the property is an endowment—their land titles and deeds to their property will be cancelled. But they may apply to their vendor to claim for losses. If the occupier wants to

rent the property, in accordance with footnote 1 of this bill, a rental agreement can be drawn between the occupier and the endowment organization, from the date that this law is ratified.

Footnote 4—In those cases where the direction of the estate changes, then the wishes of the estate have to be implemented. [as published].

Footnote 5—All laws and regulations that contradict this law and its footnotes, such as the law to cancel the title deeds of endowed water and land dated 28 March 1984, will be considered null and void. The Ministry of Agriculture and the endowment organization have the duty to prepare the executive charter for this bill within three months of its becoming law. This has to be implemented following approval from the cabinet. Also during yesterday's session, there were requests to send the bills proposed by the engineering corps to the Majles commission on housing and urban renewal, and road and transport. There was also a request to send the bill dealing with punishment for crimes committed by members of the armed forces to the commission on judicial and legal matters. These requests were discussed and ratified.

According to this report the request to hand over the bill for the formation of a coroners' organization to the appropriate commission was removed from the Majles agenda. Further discussion on the bill to approve the hiring of 200 persons at the national cultural heritage organization was put on hold for a period of six months.

The report from the commission on associations and internal issues regarding the legal plan to control and protect the country's borders, was discussed among the deputies but was rejected.

On the Sidelines of the Majles

Yesterday's session was the first to be held after the second round of the elections for the Fourth Majles and the announcement of the results. It therefore had a special air and atmosphere. According to a report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, at yesterday's session deputies gathered in small groups in the corridors and within the main hall of the parliament and engaged in debates. These centered around the manner in which the elections were held, the results that were achieved, and other analysis. Some of them passed on to one another the latest information. In this connection, some of the deputies who had received enough votes, in their meetings with their parliamentary colleagues said their victory spelled victory for the Iranian pole and was a result of their participation in the ballot. They said this also indicated the renewal of their allegiance to the great leader Ayatollah Khamene'i. In their midst, those deputies who failed to obtain enough votes from their constituencies, claimed that the most important thing was to serve the country and make an effort toward the construction of the Islamic homeland. If God is willing, we will all move in that direction.

Mr. Harati, the deputy from Sabzevar, was praised by his fellow deputies after his speech at yesterday's open session of the Majles. According to the report filed by our correspondent, in addition to the cries of "hear, hear" from many deputies in the main hall, several deputies including Mr. Nateq Nuri, deputy from Tehran, contacted Mr. Harati later and praised the contents of his speech, saying it was a success in God's holy testing ground.

We remind you that Mr. Harati, deputy from Sabzevar, despite the fact that he was not successful in the election for the Fourth Majles, did not accuse the regime or the people of various things. Not only that, he said the epic participation by the people in the elections was a shining chapter in the proud history of the Islamic revolution.

The report dealing with a request from Mr. Qazi-zadeh, asking for an investigation into the election files of the constituency of Sarakhs and Fariman, was the first item on the Majles agenda yesterday. In accordance with article 149 of the Majles internal regulations and previous procedures used, in such cases the reasons that necessitate investigations are brought forth by the reporter for the commission. Then the Majles votes on the proposal, without further discussion. But with regard to the request from Mr. Qazi-zadeh the reporter of the commission entered into great detail and discussion on the subject. After about 20 minutes, Mr. Movahedi-Savoji issued a regulatory warning and called this a political move which was against the Majles regulations. Following these remarks and comments from the Majles Speaker, the reporter for the commission ended his statement.

* 12 May

92AS1003A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 May 92 p 5

[Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday.**

Karim Shafe'i, the Deputy From Marand

Today, our country and the revolution have reached the point when only unity, planning, looking into the future and the coordinated efforts of the government and the people can perpetuate the proud life.

The only pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Karim Shafe'i, the representative of Marand, who first thanked and praised the alert people of our country for their widespread participation in the elections and then said:

I thank the noble people of my constituency for having conferred on me the responsibility of one term as deputy of the city of Marand and praise the faithful, concerned, generous friends who serve the revolution and the city and who have helped me carry out my duties over the past four years as well as the directors of departments, the governor, the mayors, the lieutenant governors, the

governor general and the directors general of the province and their colleagues for their mutual cooperation with me.

He then said:

It is my hope that the Fourth Majles, inspired by the values of the revolution and the instructions of the leader, hand-in-hand with the government, will be able to solve the many economic, cultural and social problems of the country and make the investment, employment and production sectors of the country, which are the most essential problem areas of the society, more active than ever before. Today, our country and the revolution have reached the point when only unity, cooperation, planning, looking into the future, thought, and the coordinated efforts of the people, the government, the Majles and the officials of the judicial system of the country can perpetuate the proud life. Not only do political quarrels never solve any of the problems of the country, but also like a canker, they grow on the body of the revolution, threaten the values and goals of the regime and create disunity among the children and friends of the revolution and the regime. Dear colleagues, officials, scholars and politicians, let us once more set our individual concerns aside and think about the revolution and guarding it.

Let us turn the focus from ourselves to God and not forget faith in God, knowing that on the path that we are following today, our greatest enemy is our own "ego." If we do not respect each other and attempt to get ahead of our rivals through slander and accusations, the enemy of the revolution, who is the enemy of all of us, will be the only victor in this battle.

In continuation, Karim Shafe'i recommended to the deputies of the Fourth Majles: This makes this term a term of construction, planning, order and coordination, the rule of law, essential and rational dealing with the government and the executive organizations, and a term for the implementation of government programs and avoiding lethargy, indifference, writing recommendations and offering redundant, excessive and purely political proposals.

He then pointed out: While supporting the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I recommend to him to take advantage of the formation of the Fourth Majles and make the necessary changes in his Cabinet. It seems that some of the honorable ministers do not have the capability and energy to run the programs in step with the president. This has caused delays in some areas in the reconstruction and progress of the country and has created serious discord.

The deputy of Marand then made reminders to the executive officials and said: Reminders to the honorable minister of industries concerning the building of the industrial town and the industrial ceramics town of Marand and solving the problems concerning the religiously endowed lands of the towns, to the social security agency in regards to expediting the transfer of Marand Hospital to the contractor, to the honorable minister of roads and transports concerning making the contractor activate the plan to widen the Tabriz-Marand road. Thanks to the president for his indispensable attention and awareness of the importance and position of Central Asian countries and emphasizing the necessity of the activities of the private sector in these republics, and also thanks to the honorable minister of petroleum for starting the natural gas outreach operations to Marand, Jolfa and Hadishahr.

He then thanked the deputies and the speaker of the Majles for their four years of cooperation.

Ratifications

The details of the proposal to amend the ceiling age for applicants for employment in government organizations was ratified by the deputies in the open session of the Majles yesterday. According to the single article of this proposal, in regards to the applicants for official, permanent or similar employment in the ministries and government establishments and companies, banks and companies under their control, insurance companies, city halls, government establishments, and companies which are subject to the law, if they are mentioned by name, national establishments, companies which are confiscated, and establishments which in any way make use of government funds or aid and the revolutionary institutions and companies under their control, the requirement of a ceiling age to enter service and employment which is cited in the related employment regulations shall be increased, as regards the following:

A. Applicants who have volunteered for and served on the fronts in the Battle of Right Against Wrong, for the period of their presence on the front in addition to the period of hospitalization and medical recuperation of the combatant applicants as a result of injury on the front of the Battle of Right Against Wrong.

B. Applicants who were taken prisoners of the Ba'thist enemy or the counterrevolutionary groups during the imposed war, for the period of their captivity and presence on the front.

C. Members of the families of the martyrs, self-sacrificers, the freed prisoners of war, and the missing (spouses, children, parents, brothers and sisters), up to five years.

D. The president and officials cited in Article 3 of the national employment law and those of the same rank (members of the Council of Guardians, Majles deputies, presidential deputies, the head of the accounting office, prosecutor general and advisors to the accounting office) who have been appointed and elected after 23/11/57 [12 February 1979], for the period they have served in the above-mentioned positions.

E. Applicants who have been employed in the organizations cited in this law, unofficially and full time, from the date of 23/11/1357 [12 February 1979], for the period of their unofficial service.

Note. Decisions concerning the cases mentioned in the above paragraphs shall be made on the basis of the certification issued by the proper responsible authorities and organizations.

In the continuation of yesterday's session, also, the bill on amending Paragraph E of Note 29 of the first economic, social and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which also had a priority one, was ratified after discussions by the deputies.

According to the single article of this bill, Sections 1 and 3 of Paragraph E of Note 29 of the first economic, social and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran is amended as follows.

1. Section 1: "For the purpose of providing the sugar and other foods needed in the society as well as industrial needs, the Ministry of Agriculture is granted permission to build 7 sugar-cane agricultural and industrial units on 84,000 hectares of sugar cane fields, and, in addition, to build 7 refined-sugar factories and other secondary industries, including livestock fodder factories, paper paste and pressed wood factories, an MDF factory, and livestock protein factories, at suitable capacities."

2. Section 2: "In order to enable the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out the above-mentioned project, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is granted permission to take steps directly or through other banks to secure, commit, or guarantee the foreign currency needed, up to $1.5 billion (as the main fund), and also the secondary foreign currency expenditures so as to make possible the repayment of the commitment suitable to the implementation of the project."

The foreign currency allocation committee will make the necessary repayment for the implementation of this project from the annual allocation funds in the foreign currency budget.

The report of the RESALAT parliamentary correspondent indicates that in this session, the proposal to amend Note 2 of Article 43 of the law on the economic cooperative sector of the Islamic Republic of Iran was not ratified by the deputies. Also, the request was raised by a number of deputies to set aside the proposal on general (non-scientific) selection and organizing it throughout the country, but, after statements by supporters and opponents, was not ratified.

* 13 May

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16 May 92 p 5

[Text]

Report on the Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division.

The Majles held a session on Wednesday morning. In this session, several deputies delivered pre-agenda speeches, and Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, in a brief speech offered his congratulations on the anniversary of the blessed birth of his holiness Reza and expressed hope that everyone will emulate that infallible imam.

Moslem Mirzapur, Deputy From Rudbar and Lushan

It is not true that if I had received votes in the second term, the elections would have been sound and free, and since I did not receive votes this term, they were unsound and unfree.

Moslem Mirzapur, the deputy from Rudbar and Lushan, spoke as the first pre-agenda speaker and, in regards to the participation of the people in the Fourth Majles elections, said: With their heroic presence, the noble people of Iran once again proved their loyalty to the divine regime and religious guardianship and struck a powerful blow across the mouth of the Great Satan and all the broken pens and lie-spreading voices that were trying to make the people disappointed in the revolution.

This great nation, in the course of the 14 years of its revolution, proved that the poisonous propaganda of the enemy cannot work on them, and the enemies of Islam and the revolution have realized that their propaganda does not work on the Iranian nation.

Even though it is wrong to test the tested, the enemies of Islam and the revolution are helpless, since they cannot stand to witness this great sacred revolution. But this resistant nation, despite all the calamities that it has suffered at the hands of the Great Satan and the enemies of the revolution and Islam, flies like moths around this sacred revolution and religious guardianship, and in order to guard these divine trusts has not hesitated to give it life, property and children. Such a nation cannot be made to be disappointed in its future.

Following the first phases of the Fourth Majles elections, it would have been proper for all the brothers who did not receive votes or somehow were not elected to the Majles, in their pre-agenda speeches, to praise and thank the people for their loyalty to the regime and their vast presence in the elections. But, unfortunately, the main discussions have been in defense of themselves and creating doubt about the elections, whereas the national heroism of the people was so magnificent that it angered the enemies of the revolution and made the hearts of all the lovers of the revolution happy. Obviously, weakness and strength are possible in the nature of the implementation of the elections. But what happened and what did not happen in the elections is not proper for us as deputies, since all of us witnessed the message of the grand leader of the revolution, who said:

I declare that according to reliable reports, the elections were carried out throughout the country properly and faithfully, and I have confidence in the results. Do not make bitter the sweet taste in the mouth of the people.

He added: In this term, I was not elected to serve in the trenches of the Majles. But this does not mean that the

noble people of my constituent district who voted for me in the past two terms were alert and the elections were sound then and that in this term, when they did not vote for me, God forbid, they had not paid attention or that the elections were not carried out properly. Certainly, such statements are not worthy of us, the servants of the regime. As our revered Imam said, the standards are the votes of the people.

The speaker said: As we have done our religious and national duty, the beloved martyr-nurturing people of Iran also did their religious and national duty. Hence, I take this opportunity to thank the great nation of Iran once again and the people of my constituency, who lost many of their beloved ones and the fruits of many years of their lives in the tragic earthquake but still participated so heroically in the elections despite the psychological suffering and responded positively to the message of the grand leader of the revolution. I ask God to bless you patient, self-sacrificing and hard-working people. How the presence of the people brought joy to the hearts of the grand leader of the revolution, who said: The dear nation made the sacred spirit of the late Imam and the pure souls of the martyrs happy and made their names proud. Hence, in addition to all that was said, it is necessary for us, the Majles deputies, to consider defense of the system above all else.

Moslem Mirzapur said: In turn, I have a complaint about the brothers who, like myself, did not receive votes and also those brothers whose qualifications were not approved. I, too, am sorry about their qualifications not being approved, but we are the servants of the regime. We must not act with our pens and statements in such a way that would make our enemy happy, make our friends worry and, to quote the grand leader of the revolution, make bitter the sweet taste in the people's mouth.

Have we not learned from the behavior of the imams that protecting the regime and the interests of the regime takes precedence over all else? The revered Imam said: Defending Islam and the regime is no joke. If identified, anyone in any position will immediately be exposed to the people. He also said elsewhere: It was to determine the interests and only with the hope of receiving His blessing and contentment that I would give up all I said and, if I had any reputation, make a deal with God. Do these heavenly songs of the Imam not resound in our ears, lives and souls? Hence, it is obligatory for all of us to use the directives of the Imam and the grand leader in our writings and in speaking, whether in the form of interviews or pre-agenda and other speeches, and, in order to protect the regime, not to stop at any effort and avoid any writing or speech that might cause despair in the people. God willing, our religious and worldly success will be in this.

Expressing hope for the success of the deputies of the Fourth Majles, the deputy from Rudbar said: The Fourth Majles will be formed of 69 percent new faces. This, of course, is the choice of the noble people of Iran, and, as our revered Imam said, this is a nation which is higher than the people of the Prophet of God, the people of his holiness 'Ali and Imam Hoseyn. Moreover, this nation has made use of its most obvious social rights (Article 63 of the Constitution) in electing the Fourth Majles deputies. In my opinion, this article is one of the most important articles of the Constitution. This article gives the prerogative to the nation that if for any reason it finds a Majles unsuccessful or feels that the Majles can work better than it has, and so on, it may without any incident elect a Majles as it wishes in accordance with the law. And if it intends to retain some of the representatives, the law allows the nation to reelect them. Consequently, it can be said that this article anticipates two important issues:

(1) It does not consider the term of the Majles to be permanent so that, God forbid, there would be room for anxiety and worry for the people concerning the future of the Majles. The future of the Majles is in the control of the people, and once every four years, they elect their deputies as they wish;

(2) preservation of the experiences and the fruits, lest the experiences that are the result of seeing the lives of millions of people be wasted. But judgment and determination concerning these important issues in the laws are conferred on the great nation of Iran.

He emphasized: The election of so many new faces by the nation places a grave responsibility on the Fourth Majles.

(1) Solving the difficult economic problems of the country, not with slogans but through a deep understanding of the economic problems and finding various ways to expand the national economy.

(2) In this tumultuous world and in this bitter and poisonous trap of the new world order, the political issues of the society cannot be dealt with without deep attention to the domestic and international political and social issues, because the slightest lack of attention in such a world where power and money wear the faces of the law and trickery and cheating determine politics, under such circumstances, the slightest negligence means helping the enemy.

(3) In my opinion, coordination between the Majles and the government is one of the crucial issues of the country. As the Majles is the essence of the people, and the nation the essence of the Majles, as Martyr Raja'i said, the government is the child of the Majles, and the Majles must strengthen the government. If the government does not enjoy the support of the Majles, naturally, it will not succeed in its programs, and for that matter, in these postwar and reconstruction conditions, there are conditions that each can singly overthrow a government. After the victory of the revolution, we did not have the resources for reconstruction and planning. These circumstances are due to the war. Hence, in such a sensitive situation, support for the government is one of the important national duties of the Majles, particularly for

the honorable president, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is an experienced personality and a rare figure in the revolution, who has been a favorite of the Imam, the grand leader of the revolution and the great Iranian nation. Such a powerful government doubles the responsibility of the Majles to protect the government with its generous support. Of course, this does not mean to prevent criticism. Criticism is the best factor in reform, provided it is with the intention of reform and is constructive, and not for exposing and destruction.

Continuing his speech, Moslem Mirzapur, the deputy from Rudbar, referred to the problems of his constituency, the tragic earthquake in Rudbar and the heavy damages it caused, and said: In such a region, where the fruits of the long life of the people's labor have been leveled and the people suffer from severe psychological ailments, something special must be done, and the people expect specific executive action.

He added: The ceiling for residential housing reconstruction loans is low, and the people have left the reconstruction of their residential homes unfinished in the cities and are in practice unable to continue the work. Hence, I ask the honorable president to increase the ceiling for the residential housing loans.

In conclusion, Moslem Mirzapur requested emphatically that the Iran Insurance Company pay for the damages to the earthquake victims and pointed out that the mosques have not been rebuilt in this region, and no organization has committed itself to this issue. Hence, the people are saddened by the stagnation in the reconstruction of the mosques.

Hadi Khamene'i, the Deputy From Mashhad

The other faction tried to "accuse" our faction of various issues. For example, they said to the capitalists: The radicals are the enemies of your capital!

The second pre-agenda speaker was Hadi Khamene'i, from Mashhad, who said: First, I have something to say to the honorable officials and personalities who during the elections made use of the Friday prayer podium and then frequently, through radio and television, spoke unilaterally to the people about the elections and did not give an opportunity, even a small one, to their opponents to make use of the same medium to respond individually or in the form of a discussion.

1. In the unilateral analyses of the gentlemen, it was emphasized that the people in these elections had stated what was in their hearts and in fact have chosen the future political and economic path and line of the country and the government, whereas you gentlemen know well that the results of the elections based on the personality and identity of the voters does not verify your claim at all. Moreover, if the figures showed such a thing, given the various factors in the creation of such figures, we could not reach the same conclusion you have, and essentially judgment about such a phenomenon seems too early and requires time.

In continuing, he added: In regards to some of the analyses, especially the analysis of the honorable president, there was an attack on the radical faction, as to why they consider themselves to be the exclusive followers of the Imam's line and why there is no opposition to the government program. It is truly astonishing that you who have broken bread with these deputies for several years and know the characteristics of the Majles would say such a thing. Firstly, our faction is proud to follow the Imam's line, but it has never wanted to deprive others of it. Even though you witness yourselves that the opposing faction has wrongly monopolized and falsely believes in religious guardianship and presents the other side as denying it, you have not protested this behavior, or at least we have not heard it. Secondly, if no one else knows, you at least know and have witnessed that the majority in our faction are among the most active members of the specialized Majles committees and have spent most of their energy on solving the problems of the government, absorbing more revenues to rescue the government from the shortages, and examining the bills and proposals for removing the obstacles from the path of your government's advancement.

In continuing his protest of the recent statements of the honorable president concerning the disrupters of the work of the government, he pointed out: Now, is it fair to make use of the various loudspeakers of the country to accuse a number of people of disruption and blocking the work of the government? Have your friends who are supported by you spent time and care in examining the bills and proposals, as has the radical faction? What is your answer to God and the alert consciences?

Hadi Khamene'i then added: In our past analyses, we had reached the conclusion that we have no problems with the officials of the first rank, and it is only the ill will and misuse by the mediating elements who in order to preserve and strengthen their position darken the relations and make the grounds for understanding unfavorable. But if you had truly reached the conclusion that our existence and presence in the government is an obstacle to the progress in the affairs, you could have told us directly. We were ready to leave the scene in your interests. I made the same statement on behalf of all of my friends in my speech after the election for the Assembly of Experts as well. But in practice, it was shown that the so-called moderate faction is not inclined to accept a peaceful resolution of hostilities. Rather, it wants a bloody suppression and overall elimination of the radical faction to set the minds of the enemy at peace forever, even though we had pointed out earlier that weakening a faction and a front whose major role in the revolution and whose magnificent history in the victory of the revolution is undeniable can result in nothing less than weakening the principles of the revolution. It will even be followed by the danger of the weakening and destruction of the weakening faction itself.

In another part of his speech, the speaker said: You tried to relate the greatest weakness of the radical faction to their economic views, whereas you know well that a

significant number of our friends who have incidentally all become victims are the strong proponents of your economic programs and their only criticism of the executives is why they do not act fully in accordance with the Five-Year Plan. Besides, you did not give us a chance, at least one percent of your own, to offer our views from the Voice and Vision.

Continuing his protest to the president, the deputy from Mashhad said: The faction that considers itself related to you and whose slogan is support for you used its tools and media throughout the country to accuse our faction, but there were no specific accusations. The accusations varied with the psychology and beliefs of the audience. For example, they would say to the capitalists: The radicals are the enemies of your capital; do not vote for them. They would say to cultural liberals: The radicals are fanatical and oppose social liberties; they are the so-called phalange. Do not let them into the Majles. They would say to the trades people: These heavy taxes that are imposed upon you are the work of these extremists. Rid yourselves of them in the elections. They would say to the poor and the oppressed: The radicals pretend to support you. They are the cause of high prices and inflation, while they themselves have villas, houses, factories, capital, etc. And finally, they would say to the faithful and the believers: This faction is against religious guardianship. Fortunately, as you yourself pointed out at the Friday prayers, there is a day of judgment and reckoning. It was expected of you to offer a word of advice to this huge front that was prepared to spread accusations and take initiatives in the society to prevent the religious gatherings, streets, bazaars, mosques and even a number of the Friday prayer imams and preachers from becoming a means to transmit these accusations, but, unfortunately, you did not.

In continuation, the speaker pointed out: In elections, it is only natural for one group to go and another group to come. But what is important is at what price and how. The best method is for groups and individuals to represent themselves to the people truthfully and, if they want to say anything about the differences between the factions, tell the facts rather than tightening the field for the opponents by spreading rumors and underground newspapers and not allowing any room for expression of opinion by the other side. This means that we are afraid of confronting logic and reasoning, that to attain victory we have no other tools but lying, accusations and slander. Unfortunately, in these elections, a bad seed was sown and a dangerous foundation placed, which will threaten the values of the revolution in the future. It is a flood that will take everything along with it. Certainly, this mouthful will choke, and this well that was dug will also swallow those who have dug it.

Addressing the people, the deputy from Arash said: From the beginning, before the start of the elections, we anticipated the results. But for several reasons, we did not avoid becoming candidates for election. We wanted to be sure and know that we had done our duty. We thought it possible that our leaving would be taken perhaps as running away from duty and fear of accusations and labels. We preferred to make sacrifices lest such ideas penetrate the minds of others. Now that we have done our duty, we feel at ease. Now that the results of the elections have become clear, despite the unhealthy climate of the elections and the thundering invasion of underground newspapers and accusations, the results that have been announced do not appear natural. But this is beyond our duties and is the duty of other organizations and institutions, which must answer to God and the noble people.

He then praised the people of his constituency for their participation in the elections and, in conclusion, addressing the deputies of the Fourth Majles, said that they should, in the position of legislators, watch out for the gradual movement towards eliminating the Hezbollah forces, the invasion of foreign investments coupled with Western cultural influence and the power of domestic capitalists, and the plunder of people's property. They should not forget the Imam's last will and testament concerning the war between poverty and affluence and not be deceived by the empty and deceptive promises of the Western enemies, who are paving the way for their return.

Sajjad Hojaji, the Deputy From Mianeh

Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji, the deputy from Mianeh, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He referred to the vast presence of the martyr-nurturing and religious people of Iran at the ballot boxes of the Fourth Majles and said: By voting in the elections for the Fourth Majles, the people of Iran made the enemies of Islam, headed by the criminal United States and bloodthirsty Israel, suppressed and disappointed.

Pointing out that during his term as a deputy he has done his best to render the country and the people of his constituency social, cultural, developmental and political service, the speaker said: I hope, wherever I am, once again obeying the obligatory instructions of the religious guardians to achieve the lofty goals of the late Imam and the valuable martyrs, to do my duty and continue to serve. I ask God for success in serving the honorable government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president, to solve the general problems of the Islamic society, the Muslims, the nation and our country, especially the oppressed and the downtrodden, with the sincere cooperation of the honorable deputies of the Fourth Majles.

Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji, continuing his speech, referred to Articles 56 and 58 of the election law concerning the campaigns of the candidates and said: Unfortunately, in the city of Mianeh, Mr. Hashemi violated the two above-mentioned articles. He and his supporters made use of government employees even at high ranks, such as Dr. Banki, the honorable deputy minister of mines and director general of steel, by campaigning on behalf of Mr. Hashemi in Mianeh.

He emphasized: The names of gentlemen or officials, including the residents of Tehran or Mianeh and their suburbs, who have campaigned for him have been given to the honorable Council of Guardians in regards to 17 cases of violations of the law.

The speaker added: He (Mr. Hashemi), with a vast campaign prior to the elections, was able to get 60 percent of the votes of the people in the city of Mianeh and its districts and villages.

Offering the details of the elections in the city of Mianeh, Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji mentioned the use of the Friday prayer podium, the misuse of government resources, propaganda against the deputies of the constituency, and giving promises by candidates as among the examples of the violations of the election laws in the city of Mianeh.

He said: Why do you not put the violators of the law and those who got votes in this way on trial before voting is done instead of allowing them to receive votes with such clear violations?

The speaker added: Elections common among Westerners, unfortunately, were not practiced in the city of Mianeh, and along with the above-mentioned illegal propaganda came giving money to individuals for votes from the people.

Ratifications

The details of the bill on creating 77 villages that do not meet the population quota cited in the law of definitions and regulations for national divisions was ratified by the Majles deputies. The report of the RESALAT parliamentary correspondent on the open session of the Majles indicates that according to Article 1 of this bill, the government is granted permission to create 77 villages as centers, as stated in the attached list of this bill, bypassing the regulations and population quotas cited in Article 3 of the law of the definitions and regulations for national divisions ratified in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] and its following notes.

Also, the legislative proposal on general (nonscholarly) selection and its organization throughout the country was raised for the second round of discussions. Following the statements of the deputies on this matter, the examination of the details of the bill was postponed to the next session.

In the continuation of yesterday's session, the questions of Mr. Alhoseyni, the deputy from Arak, and Mr. Shahriari, the deputy from Tangestan and Beyr, to the minister of petroleum were discussed.

The deputy from Arak asked his questions of the minister of petroleum under the heading of the Ministry of Petroleum's failure to perform its duty in distributing fuel among the people and the possible repetition of this problem next winter and added: The Ministry of Petroleum must perform its duty properly in this regard, but, unfortunately, the people last winter witnessed much disorganization.

In regards to the increase in the price of petroleum products, he said: This issue began last year and considering that this increase in price will have negative effects on other goods, apparently, unfortunately, every organization only takes its own interests and problems into consideration and thinks little about the effects of such actions on the society.

Alhoseyni said: Why does the Ministry of Petroleum create shortages and carry out improper distribution in order to create open market prices and then announce open-market kerosene at 15 rials per liter? Well, let them say it from the start and give the economic justification for it, in which case there will be no objections. If this method causes misunderstanding, it is improper, and we must have an essential revision of it.

Mr. Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, in response to the deputy from Arak, said: Last year, we did not claim that the problem of kerosene had been solved, and we made do with what we had at our disposal, which, of course, was not sufficient for the needs of the people.

Pointing out that offering open-market kerosene at 15 rials compared to the cost of shipping is insignificant, he said: If we want to offer kerosene to the people at cost, the price will be 10 times its present price.

The minister of petroleum added: The Ministry of Petroleum pays about 4 billion rials in subsidies on oil products and 15 rials per liter for kerosene does not even pay the cost of shipping.

Pointing out that in spring, sufficient fuel will be provided for the people to store for winter, he emphasized: All of our refineries are working at full capacity, and despite the fact that the society needs 40 million liters of kerosene per day, we only have the facilities to produce 26 million liters. We hope that, with more effort, the problem of fuel will be resolved as soon as possible.

In another part of his statements, Mr. Aqazadeh explained: I have been in the government for 11 years, and I have been devoted, body and soul, to my work and activities. No rational person would ever create a problem so that the newspapers can later write against him and draw caricatures of him so that he changes the price of kerosene from 4 rials to 15 rials later.

Then a question was asked of Mr. Shahriari, the deputy from Tangestan and Deyr, to the minister of petroleum in regards to the problems of the Vali-ye 'Asr natural gas refinery in Kangan District.

Explaining his question, he said: While this refinery in that region should be a blessing, unfortunately, because of its improper operation by the natural gas company, the refinery has not only caused the destruction of the

people's traditional resources, but this great industry has imposed other negative side effects on the people of the region.

He mentioned the unrest in that refinery last year, failure to make more use of native forces in this refinery, and the fact that the people of his constituency are deprived of piped natural gas as among the most important problems in this regard and pointed out: The mobilization and free forces are not employed in this industry. On the other hand, the price of one capsule of natural gas in this region is 150 tomans, whereas with 50 km of pipelines, the whole region could have piped natural gas.

In response to these statements, Mr. Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, said: Vali-ye 'Asr natural gas refinery in Kangan is one of the largest refineries in the world and provides a major part of the national need. At the present, the number of official employees of this refinery is 730 persons, of whom 525 are native.

Pointing out that Bushehr is a warm region, he said: We are obliged to carry out the Five-Year Plan, according to which priority was not given to Bushehr in regards to natural gas pipelines. Naturally, cold regions such as Kurdistan and Bakhtaran must have natural gas pipelines, and by the end of the second plan, God willing, we will have natural gas distribution in all areas of the country.

Then, since the statements made by Mr. Aqazadeh were not considered satisfactory to Mr. Shahriari, the deputy from Tangestan and Deyr, the question was referred to the Majles committee on investigating questions.

In this session, the proposal to attach one note to Article 9 of the election law was received.

The Majles will have an open session tomorrow at 8 am.

On the Margins of the Majles

On Wednesday, two deputies had pre-agenda speeches. What they had in common was that both were candidates for the Fourth Majles but did not receive enough votes. What distinguished them from one another was that Mr. Mirzapur considered the Fourth Majles as a manifestation of the heroic presence of the people and scolded those who had questioned the freedom of elections because of their failure to be elected to the Majles and reminded them and himself that if the goal is service, there is no difference between the Majles and anywhere elsewhere.

On the other side was Mr. Hadi Khamene'i, who from the narrow factional viewpoint considered his own failure and those of his allies as due to the unhealthy climate of the country and the misuse of the public podiums, such as Friday prayers. Addressing President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he asked why he had said one thing and another about their faction. In his advice to the Fourth Majles, once again, he sang the song of the isolation of the Hezbollah forces and the Imam's line and the return of the capitalists.